



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

*The Jacob K. Javits Federal Building
26 Federal Plaza, 37th Floor
New York, New York 10278*

February 5, 2024

BY EMAIL

The Honorable Sarah Netburn
Chief United States Magistrate Judge
Southern District of New York
40 Foley Square
New York, New York 10007

Re: *Complaints Charging 70 Current and Former NYCHA Employees*

Dear Chief Judge Netburn:

On January 25, January 31, February 1, and February 2, 2024, complaints charging seventy current and former New York City Housing Authority (“NYCHA”) employees (the “Defendants”) with bribery and extortion offenses (the “Complaints”) were filed under seal. A chart of the Defendants, Complaint docket numbers, and charges is attached to this letter as Exhibit A. The Government respectfully requests that at approximately 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, the Complaints be unsealed (to the extent not already unsealed) by the Court’s endorsement of this letter, and that this letter be filed on each of the dockets listed in Exhibit A.¹

The Government also provides the following information regarding the Defendants and the scope of the criminal conduct charged across the sixty-eight Complaints, which may be relevant to the Court’s determinations on certain issues, including the appropriate bail conditions:

The seventy Defendants are charged with bribery and extortion offenses related to their solicitation and receipt of money in exchange for awarding construction and repair work at NYCHA, which is the largest public housing authority in the country. Collectively, the Defendants received over \$2 million in bribe and/or extortion payments from contractors in exchange for awarding at least approximately \$13 million in NYCHA contracts. The Government understands that the New York City Department of Investigation (“NYC DOI”) intends to serve suspension notices today on all charged Defendants who are currently employed by NYCHA.²

Although only three Defendants are currently charged with conspiracy offenses related to this conduct, the scope of the charges shows that there was a culture of corruption at NYCHA of

¹ The Government will provide a copy of this letter to all defense attorneys prior to the presentments.

² The Government further understands that NYCHA leadership has lined up resources to fill the Defendants’ roles to avoid any disruption in services to NYCHA residents.

which the Defendants were all part. As described in the Complaints, cooperating witnesses have reported paying similar amounts to the Defendants in similar manners, and some were directly referred from one Defendant to another and told to “take care of” – that is, pay money to – the second Defendant. The required bribe amount (typically between 10% and 20% of the contract’s value, or \$500 to \$2,000 per contract) became well known among contractors because so many NYCHA employees were demanding payments for work. Furthermore, the corruption was not limited to a particular development or area, but infected approximately 96 developments in all five boroughs. (See Exhibits B & C (list and map).) Nor was the criminal conduct limited to a particular position at NYCHA; from storeroom employee to housing manager – and especially among the superintendents and assistant superintendents in between – the Defendants used their positions of trust to line their pockets.

This conduct is serious and corrosive. The developments at which the Defendants extorted money and accepted bribes collectively house over 200,000 New Yorkers who were deprived of honest management of their homes, and NYCHA developments overall are home to 1 in 17 New Yorkers. Contractors were hired to and did perform important services, such as repairing sewage pipes or fixing broken windows, but when such contracts are conditioned on bribes rather than merit, the contractors, NYCHA residents, and taxpayers are all harmed, as is the public’s trust in important civic institutions such as public housing.

For these reasons, the Defendants have been charged with serious felonies. The Government expects to propose bail packages for the Defendants (although reserves the right to seek detention if warranted based on information learned from the Pretrial Services reports or during the arrests). One important bail condition the Government expects to seek is that the Defendants be ordered to have no contact – nor direct anyone else to have contact – with current or former NYCHA contractors, many of whom are likely to be witnesses to and victims of the charged crimes. (As noted above, the Defendants are expected to be suspended from their NYCHA employment and would therefore have no work-related need to communicate with NYCHA contractors.) Among witnesses who continue to perform contracting work at NYCHA, there is great concern of retaliation and harassment for speaking with law enforcement.

This fear is not baseless: a previously convicted NYCHA superintendent, Leroy Gibbs, boasted in text messages to Defendant Angela Williams about “put[ting] hands on” a contractor who had threatened to report Gibbs’s bribery scheme. See *United States v. Leroy Gibbs*, No. 22 Cr. 534 (CM), Dkt. 25 at 2. Additionally, contractors who paid NYCHA employees bribes may be co-conspirators in the bribery scheme, and not all have been cooperative or truthful with law enforcement; there is also therefore a risk of collusion and obstruction. In fact, Angela Williams, upon learning of the investigation into her own bribery conduct, wiped the contents of her cellphone and then lied to law enforcement about it (two crimes for which she is now charged).

In sum, obstructive conduct has already occurred during this investigation, and the requested no-contact bail condition is needed to prevent harassment and intimidation of witnesses and additional obstruction.

Respectfully submitted,

DAMIAN WILLIAMS
United States Attorney

By: s/
Catherine Ghosh / Jerry Fang / Sheb Swett /
Meredith Foster / Jacob Fiddelman
Assistant United States Attorneys
212-637-1114 / -2584 / -6522 / -2310 / -1024

Enclosures:

Exhibit A: Chart of Defendants, Complaint Numbers, and Charges
Exhibit B: Developments and Boroughs Where Defendants Allegedly Accepted Payments
Exhibit C: Map of Developments Where Defendants Allegedly Accepted Payments

cc: Honorable Stewart D. Aaron
Honorable Sarah L. Cave
Honorable Valerie Figueredo
Honorable Katharine H. Parker
Honorable Gary Stein
Honorable Ona T. Wang

EXHIBIT A

Exhibit A: Chart of Defendants, Complaint Numbers, and Charges

Defendant	Complaint Number	Charges
Baez, James	24 Mag. 506	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Barley, Selwyn	24 Mag. 413	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Bell, Gwendolyn	24 Mag. 414	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Branch, Nymiah	24 Mag. 504	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Buckner, Marc	24 Mag. 457	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Butler, Patrick	24 Mag. 415	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Cartagena, Roberto	24 Mag. 445	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)

Exhibit A: Chart of Defendants, Complaint Numbers, and Charges

Chambers, Vernon	24 Mag. 405	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Charriez, Rigoberto	24 Mag. 507	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Colon, Hector	24 Mag. 408	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Davis, Michael	24 Mag. 401	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
De Los Santos, Victor	24 Mag. 411	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Escobar, Mauricio	24 Mag. 444	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Espinal, Jose	24 Mag. 508	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)

Exhibit A: Chart of Defendants, Complaint Numbers, and Charges

Fuller, Joseph	24 Mag. 412	18 USC § 371 (Conspiracy to Solicit and Receive a Bribe) 18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Conspiracy to Commit Extortion Under Color of Official Right) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Garcia, Manuel	24 Mag. 509	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Gaskin, Tuesdai	24 Mag. 448	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Gilmore, Corey	24 Mag. 416	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Harley, Lateisha	24 Mag. 451	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Harris, Joy	24 Mag. 419	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Hernandez, Jose	24 Mag. 455	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)

Exhibit A: Chart of Defendants, Complaint Numbers, and Charges

Hollman, Veronica	24 Mag. 422	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Hopkins, Deshon	24 Mag. 456	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Huntley, Nena	24 Mag. 458	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Johnson, Michael	24 Mag. 459	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Kemp, George	24 Mag. 412	18 USC § 371 (Conspiracy to Solicit and Receive a Bribe) 18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Conspiracy to Commit Extortion Under Color of Official Right) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Lan, Jaime	24 Mag. 510	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Lino, Dexter	24 Mag. 454	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)

Exhibit A: Chart of Defendants, Complaint Numbers, and Charges

Lorick, Nirmal	24 Mag. 417	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Lucas, Tara	24 Mag. 460	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Machado, Vincent	24 Mag. 461	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Mackey, Marlon	24 Mag. 397	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Matos, Danny	24 Mag. 453	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
McCoy, Nakia	24 Mag. 450	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
McCreary, Erick	24 Mag. 462	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
McPhatter, Henry	24 Mag. 511	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)

Exhibit A: Chart of Defendants, Complaint Numbers, and Charges

Mendez, Joacim	24 Mag. 463	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Mendez, Juan	24 Mag. 469	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Mercado, Juan	24 Mag. 495	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Miller, James	24 Mag. 452	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Muniz, Daniel	24 Mag. 400	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Newby-Bovian, Denise	24 Mag. 418	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Nieves, Alexis	24 Mag. 449	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Nunez, Raymond	24 Mag. 394	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)

Exhibit A: Chart of Defendants, Complaint Numbers, and Charges

Ortiz, Evelyn	24 Mag. 420	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Owens, Brett	24 Mag. 501	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Pardo, Orlando	24 Mag. 446	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Perez, Jorge	24 Mag. 396	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Priester, Curtis	24 Mag. 499	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Quetell, Eddie	24 Mag. 512	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Rivera, Carmen	24 Mag. 398	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Rivera, Jaime	24 Mag. 447	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)

Exhibit A: Chart of Defendants, Complaint Numbers, and Charges

Rivera, John	24 Mag. 513	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Rosa, Herbert	24 Mag. 494	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Rupnarain, Dwarka	24 Mag. 402	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Salter, Chrisie	24 Mag. 412	18 USC § 371 (Conspiracy to Solicit and Receive a Bribe) 18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Conspiracy to Commit Extortion Under Color of Official Right) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Samuel, Clarence	24 Mag. 421	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Sands, Tanisha	24 Mag. 492	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Scott, Carolyn	24 Mag. 500	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)

Exhibit A: Chart of Defendants, Complaint Numbers, and Charges

Small, Garth	24 Mag. 496	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Starks, Charles	24 Mag. 505	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Tapia, Elizabeth	24 Mag. 497	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Tolozano, Alex	24 Mag. 423	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Torres, Luis	24 Mag. 424	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Torres, Segundo	24 Mag. 493	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Villanueva, Frankie	24 Mag. 403	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Wade, Lindsay	24 Mag. 395	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)

Exhibit A: Chart of Defendants, Complaint Numbers, and Charges

Williams, Angela	24 Mag. 318	18 USC § 371 (Conspiracy to Solicit and Receive a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Conspiracy to Commit Extortion Under Color of Official Right) 18 USC §§ 1519 and 2 (Destruction of Evidence) 18 USC § 1001 (False Statements)
Williams, Willie	24 Mag. 491	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)
Wright, Calvin	24 Mag. 425	18 USC § 666(a)(1)(B) (Solicitation and Receipt of a Bribe) 18 USC § 1951 (Extortion Under Color of Official Right)

EXHIBIT B

Exhibit B: Developments and Boroughs Where Defendants Allegedly Accepted Payments

Bronx Developments:

- 1010 East 178th St. Consolidated
- Boston Road Plaza
- Bronx River Houses
- Butler Houses
- Eastchester Gardens
- Forest Houses
- Gun Hill Houses
- Marble Hill
- Mill Brook
- Mitchel Houses
- Monroe Houses
- Morrisania Air Rights
- Mott Haven
- Pelham Parkway
- Sotomayor Houses
- Soundview
- St. Mary's Park
- Twin Parks
- Webster

Brooklyn Developments:

- Albany
- Bay View Houses
- Borinquen Plaza
- Breukelen
- Brevoort
- Brownsville
- Bushwick
- Carey Gardens
- Cypress Hills
- Farragut
- Glenwood Houses
- Howard
- Hylan
- Independence Towers
- Ingersoll
- Langston Hughes Apartments
- Linden
- Marcus Garvey
- Marcy
- Marlboro
- Ocean Hill-Saratoga Village
- Pink
- Red Hook West
- Seth Low
- Stuyvesant Gardens
- Sumner
- Surfside Gardens
- Tilden
- Tompkins House
- Unity Plaza
- Van Dyke

Manhattan Developments:

- Campos Plaza
- Chelsea-Elliot Houses
- Clinton Houses
- Drew-Hamilton
- Dyckman
- East River
- Fort Washington Ave Rehab
- Fulton
- Gompers Consolidation
- Grant
- Harlem River
- Jackie Robinson
- Jefferson Houses
- Johnson Houses
- King Towers
- LaGuardia Houses
- Lehman Village
- Lincoln
- Lower East Side Consolidated
- P.S. 139
- Polo Grounds
- Rangel
- Rutgers
- Saint Nicholas
- Straus
- Taft
- Vladeck
- Wagner
- Wald
- Washington-Lexington
- Wilson
- Wise Towers

Queens Developments:

- Baisley Park Houses
- Beach 41st Street
- Bland
- Hammel
- Latimer Gardens Consolidated
- Pomonok
- Queensbridge North
- Queensbridge South
- Ravenswood Houses
- Redfern
- South Jamaica Houses

Staten Island Developments:

- Berry
- Richmond Terrace
- Stapleton Houses

EXHIBIT C

